GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1100
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
SMUGGLING OF WILDLIFE
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the value of skins of wildlife which were burnt on `Wildlife Protection Day` this year ;

(b) whether animals are being smuggled from West Bengal to Bangladesh in planned manner ;

(c) if so, the number of smugglers caught red handed/killed for smuggling activities in or out of the country alongwith the number and category of wildlife recovered from them during the last three years and current years, till-date ;

(d) the action taken against them ; and

(e) the steps taken to check such activities in future ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have informed that the skins of wild animals, as per detail given in the Annexure , were burnt by them. Since trade of wildlife is not allowed in the country the monetary value cannot be assessed.

(b),(c)&(d) As informed by the State Government of West Bengal two cases of smuggling of wildlife have been detected during the last three years. The details are as follows:

(i) On 14.1.98, 879 pieces of live and 134 pieces of dead turtle along with a truck were seized at Kalyani Police Station. Three smugglers were arrested.

(ii) On 7.1.2001, 115 nos of water monitor lizard were seized. Two smugglers were arrested.

Cases have been filed in the High Court against the accused persons.

(e) The Steps taken to check the illegal trade of wild animals are:

(1) Steps taken at the State level:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) The Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the four Southern States hold periodical meetings for border area protection and to deal with the problems of poaching and illegal trade.

(iv) Regular Task Force consisting of Police and Forests Officials has been set up to deal with poachers and smugglers.

(v) Anti poaching camps has been established at sensitive places in Southern Indian States.

(vi) The State of Karnataka have set up a Special Forest Cell in the police department consisting 300 personals and headed by an Inspector General of Police to deal with forest offences.

(vii) The Forest protection staff has been provided immunity against arrest in case they open fire on the poachers and smugglers.

(2) Steps taken at National level

i. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

ii. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

iii. Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected Areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising `Strike Forces` and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

iv. A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

v. Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.

vi. A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and out side protected areas.

vii. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) Steps taken at International level.

i. Government of India seeks international co-operation under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

ii. To control transboundary trade a protocol has been signed with Peoples` Republic of China and an MOU has been signed with His Majesty`s Government of Nepal.

iii. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1100 for 30.7.2001 regarding Smuggling of Wildlife

Details of wild animal skins burnt

Name of State	No of Skins burnt	Date	Remarks
Andhra Pradesh	94	10.3.2001	
Maharashtra	6	5.6.2001	World Environment Day